

A Relation of some of the many remarkable Passages before the siege of Namptwich, during the continuance of it, and at the happy raising of it by the victorious Gentleman, Sir Thomas Fairefax, and Sir William Brereton, and the Lancashire Gentlemen, and Forces with them.



S the power and providence of God hath been of late more discernably imployed in other parts of the Kingdome, on the behalfe of his people, so especially in Cheshire. Not to run backe to wonders of an elder date (of which that County hath had not a few) this last was such as might well be reckoned amongst mag-

malia Dei. It may be that works may convert them that words will not, and this Relation may startle those who fight hood-winkt, and

Balaam-like discerne not God against them.

The English Army that had left Ireland to the mercy of those odious Rebels, came over about the midst of November, and making their first attempt upon Hawarden Castle, received a timely advertisement from the Parliaments forces there, which was sent upon their summons of the Castle in these words.

To the Gentlemen lately come from the ser-

E E are forry you have made such an unhappy exchange of Enemies, to leave Irish to fall upon English, and. Papilts to fall upon Protestants : We had hoped the bloud of that noble Gentleman Sir Simon Harcourt, and the many thousands of Protestants, who have fallen by the fury of those bloudy monsters of Ireland, could not have been so soone forgotten. What course the Court of England runs, how destructive to the Protestants, and favourable to the Papists, you cannot but know with us by sad experience; And therefore we defire before you passe further, your thoughts may make a paule, lest you finde that God of the Protestants against you, whom you have hitherto found miraculously for you. We feare the loffe of our Religion more then the loffe of our dearest bloud: Doe not, we beseech you, defire us to betray it and our selves : Wee hope your second thoughts may take off the edge of your former resolutions, however we are resolved to make good our trust, and put our lives into the hands of that God, who can, and we hope will fecure them more then our wals, or weapons.

Their unwelcome entertainment of this message dis-

mier, and they hone shewed us how little of civility was to beexpected from them. When they had taken that Castle, and broken all Articles agreed on upon the furrender, when the Parliaments forces were necessitated to it, by want of provision, after a fortnights siege: They were somewhat encouraged to surther attempts, especially new Regiments comming in to their augmentation After some stay at Chester (where they manifested their unruly and spoyling dispositions) they came out to Beefton Caftle, which through the treachery of one of the Guards, and the cowardize of the Governour (who is fince executed for it) was fuddenly furrendred to them. Thence they make forward to the further misery and sorrow of the wofully oppressed Countrey, and spoyle all that part of the Countrey adjoyning to Shropshire. When they had got what was to be had there, they fought fresh quarters upon that part of Cheshire, which borders on Staffordshire, where they were at their old trade of plundring very bufily.

Sir William Brereion with some Lancashire forces came in to our ayde, drew up to Sandbach; but upon the enemies appearance (apprehending themselves too weake to encounter so great a power) they lest that place to their enemies, and sell down to Middlewich, three miles lower. The enemy encouraged thus far, sell upon them at Middlewich, and tooke above a 100 of our men, slew some, and disheartened all the rest: The noise of this caused Northwich to be quit, and then they

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sent

fent a new summons to Crew house; for they had summoned it once before, but summons would not take it; and therefore they fall on to affault it with a great deale of resolution, but are beaten off with very great losse. Our men, what through want of Ammunition, and despaire of reliefe, surrendred the house upon quarter for their lives, which they gave them with forrow enough. They had before this, taken the neighbouring Church of Bartemley, where some honest men took Sanctuary, and there perfidiously promised quarter, but gave none. It hath ftrucke some with no small wonder, that men of formerly generous spirits (as some of them are) should thus degenerate into uch odious inhumanities. After this they summoned Dedington house, which was surrendred without a shot, so far had the terrour of these prevailing men possess the spirits of the Desendants. Thence they goe on to Acton Church (their own trap afterwards) and after some shot of their Ordnance against it become the masters of it. Thus like an inundation, which knowes no bounds or stops they had borne downe all the County almost, and were got to the wals of that place, which was the onely heart and I fe of the Countrey, the Garrison of Namptwich.

Now in the night they make severall mounts and works round the Towne, and planted their Ordnance on all sides; but before Sir Iohn Byron, who was Commander in chiese, would engage himselse against the

Towne, he fent this summons.

To the Commanders, Souldiers, and Inbabitants of the Towne of Namptwich.

That it may appeare to all the world, that neither I nor the Armie under my conduct, defire the bloud or ruine of any (as we have been most falsly and maliciously scandalized in that behalfe) but that our chiefe aimes and endevours are to reduce the people to their due obedience to his Majestie, and settle the Countrey in peace without shedding of bloud, I have thought good, before I engage my selfe upon the towne, to let you know:

That I do in his Majesties name charge and command you, to deliver up the said towne of Namptwich, with all the Armes, Artillerie, Ammunition, and other things therein into my hands, for his Majesties use; and that all Commanders, Souldiers and others, immediately lay down their Armes, and submit to his Majesties grace and mercie.

2 I promise pardon to such as shall readily lay downe their Armes and submit, and shall give safe conduct to such as shall desire to goe to their houses in the Countrey, and will protect both them and the Inhabitants of the Towne in their persons and estates, except such as his Majestie hath excepted.

3 If you refuse these conditions, I shall by Gods help use other meanes for the recoverie of his Majesties right, and vindicating of his and the Countries wrongs; whereby if you, and those many good people, who are forced to bee among you shall perish, both your owne bloud and theirs shall rest on your owne heads.

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I am content to allow two houres for returne of an ananswer, and admit a coffation of Armes on both sides, till

that time be expired.

If you will fend two men of qualitie, the one a Souldier, the other a Townef-man, to treat (with me, or fuch as I shall appoint) upon the time and manner of the render of the Towne, I will give safe conduct and caution for their safe returne.

John Byren.

There was answer returned to this at the gate by word of mouth, that the Towne was kept by us for the use of the King and Parliament, and by their speciall directions; and that we were resolved to keep it against him and his Forces, fo long as it pleased God to enable us. This was said openly to fatisfie the Souldiers, at which they gave up a great thour, and great joy was thorowout all the Guards, and all the Towne. The Souldiers were afterwards undaunted and unwearied, notwithstanding they had such violent and diligent enemies. They shor cold and fierie bullets into the Towne night and day, but killed none but one man and one woman. and burned nothing but one flack of kids at the back of Mr. Wilbrahams house. Many strange deliverances were had through Gods mercie, which deferve a Chronicle, and will find it in the hearts of men, if not in other books. The 17 of Januarie they shot an hundred shot with their Ordnance from one mount against the Towne and works: about a week before their furious, and (to themselves) fatall assault, they fent a fecond Summons in these words.

To the Inhabitans, and Commanders of the Towne of Namptwich.

W Hereas I am certainly enformed, as well by divers of the Souldiers, who are now my prisoners, as by feverall other creditable persons, that you are not only in a desperate condition, but that the late Summons I sent to the Towne hath been suppressed and concealed from the Inhabitants thereof, and they most grossely abused, by being told that no mercie was intended to be shewed by this Armie to the Towne, but that both man, woman and child should bee put to the fivord: I have therefore thought fit once more to fend unto you, that the minds of the people with you, may be dispossest of that false and wicked slander, which hath been cast upon this Armie: And I doe charge you (as you will answer Almightie God for the lives of those persons who shall perish by your perfidious dealings with them) that you impart and publish the faid Summons I fent to the people with you, and that you yeeld up the Town of Namptwich into my hands, for his Majesties use, and submit your felves to his Majesties mercie, which I am willing to offer unto you. Though I am confident, that neither, of your felves, or by any aid that can come unto you, there is any possibilitie for you to escape the hands of this Armie. If you please to send two Gentlemen of qualitie to me, the one a Commander, the other a Townef-man, whereby you may receive better fatisfaction, I thall give fafe conduct and hostage for their returne. I doe expect a present answer-from you.

Tan. 16. 1643.

John Byron.

The Answer.

X 7 E have received your last Summons, and do returne this answer; that wee never reported, or caused to be reported, that your Lordship, or the Armie, intended any fuch crueltie, wee thinking it impossible for Gentlemen and Souldiers fo much to forget humanitie: and if any have informed you otherwise, it is their owne conceit, and no realitie. Concerning the publishing of your former Summons, it was publikely read amongst the Souldiers and Townef-men, as your Trumpetter can witnesse: and since that time multitudes of coppies of it have been dispersed among the Townef-men and others, and from none hath it been concealed and detained. For the deliverie of this town, wee may not with our consciences, credits, or reputations, betray that trust reposed in us, for the maintaining and defending this towne, as long as any enemy shall appear to offend it. Though we be termed Traytours and Hypocrites, yet we hope and are confident, God will evidence and make knowne to the world in his due time (though for the present we should suffer) our zeale for his glorie, our unfained and unsported loyaltie towards his Majestie, and sinceritie in all our professions.

George Booth.

This Gentleman perhaps had not seen Sir Ishas Letter to the Earle of New Castle, wherein hee perswades him to sollow Burcherie in stead of Souldierie, otherwise hee would ve abated somewhat of his over-large charitie.

There

There were some other papers sent into the towner from Captain Sandford, a man very lavish of ink and big words (as week now by experience, having been troubled with many of the like papers of his in Hawarden Castle before this time) and who afterwards ended his life at the towne side, upon his assault of one of the works.

To the Officers, Souldiers, and Gentlemen in Namptwich, thefe.

Our Drum can inform you, Acton Church is no more a prison, but now free for honest men to doe their devotions therein; wherefore be perswaded from your incredulity, and refolve, God will not for fake his Anointed. Let not your zeal in a bad cause dazzle your eyes any longer, but wipe away your vaine conceits that have too too long led you into blind errors. Loath I am to undertake the trouble of perswading you into obedience, because your erroneous opinions doe most violently oppose reason among you. But however, if you love your Towne, accept of quarter; and if you regard your lives, worke your fafeties by yeelding your Towne to the Lord Byron for his Majesties use. You now fee my Battery is fixt, from whence fire shall eternally visit you day and night, to the terrour of your old, and females, and confumption of your thatcht houses. Beleeve mee, Gentlemen, when I have laid by my former delayes, and am now resolved to batter, burn, and ftorme you. Doe not wonder that I write unto you, having Officers in chief above mee; 'tis only to advise you because I have some friends among you for whose fafety

fafety I wish you to accept of my Lord Byrons conditions; hee is gracious, and will charitably consider of you; Accept of these as a summons, that you forthwith surrender the Towne, and by that testimonie of your sealty to his Majestie you may obtaine savour. My Fire locks, you know, have done strange seats both by day and night, and housely wee will not saile in our private visits of you. You have not as yet received mine alarmes; wherefore expect suddenly to heare from my batterie and approaches before your Welch Roe.

THOMAS SANDFORD
Captain of Fire-locks.

This 15. of Inn. 1643.

This big-spoken man not fatisfying himselfe with this, addes the following Letter.

Gentlemen ,

Ligion: I vow by the faith of a Christian, I know not one Papist in our Armie; and as I am a Gentleman, wee are no Irish, but true born English, and real! Protestants also born and bred: Pray mistake us not, but receive us in your faire esteem. I know wee intend loyaltie to his Majestie, and will be no other but faithfull in his service. This, Gentlemen, believe from yours,

Thomas Sandford.

ZARBATY 15.

This Gentleman, the day before his death, faid to one of our Drums these words, Sirrha, behold the messenger of death, Sandford and his Fire-locks, who neither use to give, nor take quarter. This following Order was found in his pocker.

Major Hamond with that Regiment under his command and the Fire-locks, with the scaling ladders.

The Fire-locks, and all the Dragoons armed with fire locks or snaphances to fall on first so neer unto the fall of the river as may be, on the left hand of the bulwark, to be seconded by 100. musketeers, then a body of pikes, then a reserve of musketeers. Let the souldiers carry as many saggots as they can.

Ian. 17. 1643.

Richard Gibson,

The field-word, God and a good caufe.

Our fouldiers abhorred parleys, and would not endure the fight of any more fummons: the enemy differning fuch resolution, had a project to gain the town by a sudden and violent assult upon five severall places of the towne at once; and this was done an houre before day, upon notice given to one another by a shot of one of their Ordnance, the eighteenth of January, which was a costly assult; for they lest dead at the wall lane end Lieutenant Colonell Bolton, one Captain, many Officers, & the prime of their souldiers of the red regiment: many they cast there into the river, and carried many off B 2

dead and wounded. At Wichsteds sconce was slaine Captain Sandford (the threatning man that talkt of eternall fire) and his Lieutenant, and some few souldiers besideslest, and many carried off slain and wounded. At Pillory-street end, left dead behind, one Captain. two Lieutenants, two Enfignes, seventeen souldiers of the green regiment, and carried off 60. flain and wounded thence. At the bick of M. Manwarings were left flain two Lieutenants, and thirteen fouldiers, and many dead and wounded carried off. At the sconce neer the Lady Nortons was left flain one Captaine, and 15. fouldiers, besides what was carried off. There are with us of them deadly wounded Officers & fouldiers 18, One of their own party reports they lost in the affault 200 men: but we now understand they lost and had wounded 500. men. Thus it pleased Almighty God to deseat them, and to lend that town his powerfull affiftance for their securitie, when their dangers were so neer.

For all this, the enemies make good their siege, and will not be taken off from their designes: At last that long-lookt for help came by that noble and religious Gentleman, Sir Thomas Fairefax, and Sir William Brereton, and the rest of those valiant Gentlemen and souldiers, who having wrestled with God before by severall daies of humiliation, and being sollowed with thousands of prayers more then their own, obtained one of the greatest victories (all things considered) which we have had in this kingdom. And because no words can expresse it with more modestic and truth then his own, we shall only use Sir Thomas his Letter to his Excellencie the Earl of Essex.



Sir Thomas Fairefax his Letter, to his Excellency the Earle of Effex.

May it please your Excellencie,



Defire your pardon, that I have not given your Excellencie an account before this, of the great mercie God hath shewed us, in

giving us a happy Victory over the Irish Army, to a totall ruine of their foot, and purchase of their chiefe Commanders. Vpon the 21th of Ianuary, I march't from Manchester towards Namptwich, to relieve that Town with 2500 foot, and twenty eight Troops of Horse; the Enemies Forces were above 3000 foot, and 1800 horse; the first encounter we had were with a Party of theirs upon the Forrest of Delamore, where about thirty were taken Prisoners; about fix miles further they maintained

tained a Passage against us with about 200 men; I caused some Foot and Dragoones to bee drawn out to force it, which by Gods assistance they did in halfe an houres space, and there took a Major and some prisoners; having advanced some two miles further, we found a good Body of them planted about Acton Church a mile from Namptwich; we drew up within Cannon shot which sometimes played upon us, but without hurt God be thanked; wee there understood that the Lord Byron who had belieged the Town on both fides of the River, was prevented by overflowing of the water from joyning with that part at Acton Church, but heard that he was taking a compasse to get over the River to joyne with it, we resolved to fall upon that party at the Church before he should get up to it, but flaying to bring up our Rere and Carriages, we gave him time to obtaine that hee fought for; then wee resolved to make way with Pioneers through the Hedges, and then to march to the Town to relieve it. and to adde some more Force to our selves to enable better to fight with them; but being a little advanced on our march, they fold

told mee the Enemy was close upon the Reere, fo facing about two Regiments being Colonell Hollands, and Colonell Boothes, I march't not farre before wee came to bee engaged with the greatest Party of their Army, then the other part prefently after affaulted our Front, there Sir William Brereton and Colonell Afron did very good fervice, and so did Colonell Lambert and Major Copley with the Horse, they were once in great danger, but that they being next to the Town were affilted by Forces which came to their fuccour in due time; wee in the other Wing were in as great distresse, but that the horse commanded by Sir William Fairefax did expose themselves to great dangers to encourage the foot, though capable of little fervice in those narrow Lanes; yet it pleased God after two houres fight they were forced by both Wings to retreat to the Church, where they were caught as in a Trap. A Lift of what we took I have here fent your Excellency.

Thus the Lord of Hoasts hath done great things for us, to whose Name alone be ascribed all glory, that nothing in the worthlesse creature may any wayes darken that which eminently appeares herein of the Creator, hoping that he will still goe on with us to prosper us in this way, and make me though unworthy, more capable to serve him in it, And so to observe your Excellencies commands, as it may appeare how much I am

Namptwich 29.

Your Excellencies

most humble servant,

Tho. Fairefax.

A Lift of the Prisoners taken at Acton Church, Jan. 25. 1643. neer Namptwitch.

Major Generall Gibson, Colonell.

Sir Michael Enrley. Sir Richard Fleetwood.

Colonell Monk.

Colonell Warren.

Lievtenant Colonels.

Sir Francis Buttler.

Lievtenant Colonell Lucas.

Gibbs.

Major Hamond.

Slain, Lievtenant Colonell Vane.

Lievtenant Colonell Willier.

Boulton, The one in the fight, the other Long. in the affault be-

fore the Town.

Captains.

Atkins.

Sydenham.

Finch.

Difney.

Fisher.

Cooke.

Ward.

Dean.

Litcole.

Betts.

Spot [wood.

Bambridge.

Lievtenants.

Norton.

Roe.

Pawlet.

Pawlet. Goodwin. Liverson. Duddleston. Pate. Morgell. Lestrange. Shipworth. Ankers. Billingsley. Castilion. Milner. Bradsbaw. Walden. Lyons. Poulden:

Enfignes.
Brown.
Brereton.
Bach.
Fines.
Wright.
Davis.
Touthwood.

Smith.

(16) Addisse. Smith. Mahoone. Rife. Deudsworth. Musgrave. Pemicock. Dunsterfield. Elliar. Eiclast. Philips. Heard. Thomas. Morgan. Lewis, Godsclue. Busby. Terringham. Wither.

Cornets.

Lee. Carpenter.

Quarter-Masters. Lee. Petty. (17)

Sir Ralph Done also taken.

Mast. Shurlock, Chaplaine to a Regiment.

Gentlemen of Companies, twenty.
Serjeants forty one.
Drums fourty.
Corporals sixty three.
Four Canoncers.

Colours Women of had Common of had Common of Common of Companies, twenty.

Carriage Divers of Rich Plus Calours Women of had Common o

Colours
22
Women, many wherof had long Knives,
120
Common Souldiers,
1500
Ordnances Six, five of
Braffe.
Carriages,
20
Divers of the Wagons
Rich Plunder.

Hat this Mercy may not passe, as too many do, but for a nine dayes wonder, these things would be seriously thought of, whereby it may be seen, they had all advantages but God.

1. The man upon whom the eyes of the Garrison were most fastned for his known sufficiencies, and from whom they had the largest expectation of direction and encouragement, was taken prisoner a little before the siege, that they might look for salvation higher.

2. Our enemies were men of great experience, who had run through all forts of services, and were not now to learn

the Policies of Warre.

3. They were men acquainted with the greatest hardship, habituated to cold and want, and what ever sufferings a winter siege could require.

4. They were put in heart by their former Successes, and

that would make them the more daring and desperate, and they were valiant before, being used to nothing but Conquests.

5. They were in view of a large Plunder, and nothing

but an Earthen Work betwixt it and them.

6. They were a greater Army then that which came to the relief of the Town for number, and therefore we need the

leffer to wonder at Sir John Byrons Presumption.

7. They had a Female Regiment (as they seldome marcht without) and these were Weaponed too; and when these degenerate into cruelty, there are none more bloody. How many thousands of the Irish have these men formerly encountred, and never met with such a defeat.

And lastly, That this victory and fiege should cost them so little expense of blood, being but four lives lost in the Town, and about twenty in fight, is little lesse then a miracle.

All these wayes they had farre the better of it, but that it might be seen that the Battell is not to the strong

God casts the Scales the other way.

It may be, aftertime may tell more wonders, but here is enough to work upon a thankfull heart, which is the rather sent abroad, that those who have mourned and prayed over this Town in its greatest extremities, may now see what cause they have to blesse the Lord, while they have any being. God hath given anew, to some their Countrey, Friends, and more then can be told on a sudden,

The Kingdom is rid in a great part of one of the most formidable Armies in it, partly through the power of it, but more through the rage of it, of which we hear some stories sad enough, and fear more. God is now making bare his Arm for us, and if our sins do not stay his hand, we shall have mercy far above what we

can ask or think. Gratitude for what is done, is the way to get more to be done; and if we render according to our receivings, this goodnesse of God will be but a pledge of suture and greater mercy. We are still in a wanting condition, and must have many a wonder wrought, ere Peace and Truth will be had. But what cannot God do? And what will he not do for a gratefull people? The Lord make us such, that it may go well with us, and the generations after us.

To our much honoured Friend, Gilbert Millington, Esquire, one of the Members of the House of Commons.

SIR,

N Expression of our thankfulnesse to God for his great deliverance to this Garrison, we desire to communicate to your self, and to our friends, in what manner the Lord of

Hosts was pleased to manifest himself in our preservation (even miraculously) from the bloody Hands of a cruell and mercilesse Enemy, intreating you to joyn with us in returning Prayers to his Sacred Name.

Sir, We drew forth the last week to meet Derby Forces upon a Designe, which failing, we marched to Manssfeld, and in our retreat, we sequestred some of the Goods of the Lord Byrons, at Newsted; whereof Colonell Fretchvile, and Colonell Humblock having notice, they being then plundering about Felley, with three Troops sell upon us in our retreat, but our Horse and Dragoons

Dragoons facing about, engaged them; and we took one Fammot a Walloom, Captain Lievtenant, or Major to Colonell Freschvile; with three more: killed one Lievtenant, and a Cornet, with some others; wounded both the Colonells, with many more, and but two men of ours wounded, whereof one dyed fince. In revenge whereof, on Tuelday morning laft, the Enemy gave tis an Alarum, and about feven of the clock approached neer the Town, and being betwixt two and three thousand Horse and Foot, beat in our men, and the Fortifications of the Town being imperfect, entredit, and forc't our Horse and Foot into the Caftle: wethen immediately put Musket's into the hands of our Troopers, and by them, and some foot, possessed our felves of some Houses, which played into the Market place; and fome other parts of the Town; then we fallyed out with most of our Foot, considering, if we did not make a desperate adventure, we were in very great hazard; fo we fell upon the Enemy in feverall Houses, killed divers of them in the streets, in which Gods power did wonderfully appear, for in one House three or four of our men took fixteen, and in another, two took fix, and the like was done in divers places, whereby it pleased God to strike the Enemy with fuch a terrour, that they presently fled, and we pursuing them out of the Works, took about eighty Prisoners; about two hundred Arms, killed above twenty in the Town, besides many who dyed in the retreat, as we hear above fifty, and very many ran from their Colours, and some came to us with their Arms, in all (according to our Intelligence) the Enemy loft neer three hundred men and Arms; in which service we loft but one Boy, two were flightly wounded and not one taken Prisoner. Sir

Sir Charles Lucas who reports himself General of this County, and Lincolnshire, did draw what force he could from Pontefract, Winsteld-Manner, Boulsover, Welbeck, Ashby, Belvoyre, Newarke, Wiverson, and Shelferd. Thus they conspired our destruction, their Plot being to surprise our Horse in our Quarters, and if that failed, to enter the Town, and to summon the Castle, and if that was not yeelded, to plunder the Town, and fire it; which accordingly they attempted, for they put hurning Coals, lighted Match, and shot their Muskets and Pistols into the Hay, in Captain Whites Quarters, and divers other places, but through Gods

mercy the fire did not take any where.

This is a true Relation of the Passages, although sundry reports are given out by the Enemy which we know to be various and false, as that the Town did give them three or four thousand pound to quit it, and that they lost but three men, and that they were commanded away by severall Packets, and others of the like nature; yet some of their Commanders who were ingenuous, did at southwell, upon their retreat, confesse, That they had been upon most Designes with Prince Rupert; yet did never see hotter service, nor more execution done with Ordnance. We having this experience of Gods dealing with us, hope it will encourage us, and all others, engaged in this Cause, to continue fairhfull to him, which is, and ever shall be, the Prayers of us,

Sir your faithfull Servants

fohn Hutchinson. Foseph Widmerpole.

George Hutchinson. Charles White.

Thomas Salustury.

I lortingham Castle, the 20 of January, 1642. We are credibly informed since the writing hereof that Colonell Earre of Hasso was slain, one Captain Carturight is not yet heard of, and Lieutenant Colonell Carturight, and some other Commanders wounded.

The Defeat give by Colonell Massy to the Enemy at Skepstom, Januar. 24. 1643.

Aken Prisoners, Colonell Sir Henry Talbet, three Lievtenants, three Irish Reformadoes, Sergeant Major Moor, Captain Rock, Captain Barrey, Captain Seabrook, Sikty common Souldiers. Also there was taken a great Barge, with great store of Sack and other Wines, great store of Victuall, and Ammunition, by a Hriggor which was man'd by the Souldiers of Colonell Massy.

FINIS.